



Aim is to go beyond disengagement- Defence Minister on India-China border truce issue

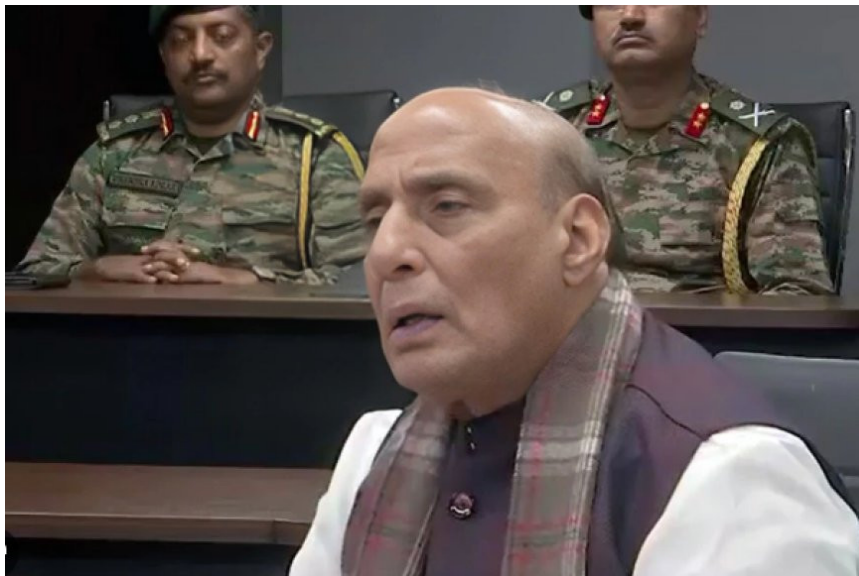


Photo Collected: India TV

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stated that the goal is to move beyond mere disengagement in the context of the India-China border situation. This comes after Army sources confirmed the completion of disengagement between Indian and Chinese forces in the Depsang and Demchok plains of eastern Ladakh. This development marks a significant step, occurring four years after the heightened tensions that followed the 2020 border clashes.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently emphasized the ongoing discussions between India and China aimed at resolving conflicts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. He noted that there is now a broad consensus between the two nations to restore the situation to what it was before the 2020 border skirmishes. This statement follows the completion of disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops in the Depsang and Demchok plains, areas that have seen heightened tensions since the clashes in 2020.



Singh mentioned that the disengagement involved the withdrawal of troops, tents, and temporary structures, and that both sides would engage in traditional exchanges, such as sharing sweets on Diwali, reflecting a spirit of goodwill. He highlighted that the consensus reached between India and China is based on "equal and mutual security," which includes rights related to patrolling and grazing in traditional areas.

The Defence Minister also acknowledged the significance of unity and harmony within India, paying tribute to Sardar Vallabhai Patel on his birth anniversary. He underscored the importance of the northeastern region in India's identity and development, reiterating the government's commitment to holistic development in this area.

Singh praised the role of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in enhancing connectivity in the region and mentioned key projects like the Sela Tunnel and the Arunachal Frontier Highway, which are expected to boost both strategic and economic prospects.

In honoring Major Bob Khathing, he noted Khathing's contributions to the peaceful integration of Tawang into India and his establishment of critical security frameworks. The newly inaugurated Museum of Valour serves as a tribute to Khathing's legacy and aims to inspire future generations.

Overall, Singh's remarks reflect a dual focus on improving bilateral relations with China while also fostering unity and development within India, particularly in the northeastern region.